

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921.

SUBMITTED TO:

[CWGC Canadian Agency](#)

66 Slater Street

Suite 1707

Ottawa Ontario Canada K1A 0P4

Att: [Dominique Boulais](#)

Report Date: 19 August 2015

Reason for Submission: ("X" means purpose of the report)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Confirmed Identity		Burial Location Identified	X
Most Probable Identity	X	Grave Stone Correction	X
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	X
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	X
Other		Other	

Supporting Documents: (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Hawke, Herbert Edward	i	Hagle Dump Cemetery	link
P.P.C.L.I.	i	West-Vlaanderen, Belgium	i
Sergeant #222	i	Plot 3 Row H Grave 3	i
May 8, 1915	link	Date of Burial / Exhumation	i
Attestation Papers	link	Cemetery Schematic	link
Service Record		Graves Registration Report	8
Circumstance of Death	1, 2	Concentration of Grave	9
CEF Canada Register	3	Headstone Register	
War Diary Extract(s)	4	Casualty Spreadsheet	
Area Map(s)	5	Trench Map Exhumation	
Trench Map(s)	6	Grave Stone Photograph	
Possible Candidates List	7	Grave Stone Inscription	
Excluded Candidates List		Memorial Inscription/Photo	
Other		Reporting and Review	10

Summary of Findings:

The Graves Registration Report form for Plot 3 Row H Grave 11 lists an unknown Canadian Soldier of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, initially identified by the name "H. Hare", presumably from the razor that was found with his effects.

It is our contention that they were nearly correct with the name and the remains are those of "H. Hawke" which were found at that exact location.

Details of Findings:

The findings provide strong evidence to support that the remains in Plot 3 Row H Grave 11 at the Hagle Dump Cemetery are those of Sergeant Herbert Edward Hawke #222 of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

The findings are based on the following:

1. The Circumstance of Death file for Sergeant Hawke (listed there as "Private") show that he was killed in action at Bellewaerde Lake on May 8, 1915 and that the reported location of his grave was Sheet 28 J7 a.4.2 (Attachment #1). Coincidentally, the CWGC later identified the remains of Company Sergeant Major James Dames, also PPCLI, in Grave 3.E.12. He was identified by the effects with his remains and the records were so amended. His initial burial location was identical to Sergeant Hawke at Sheet 28 J7 a.4.2 (Attachment #2).
2. Sergeant Herbert Hawke #222 was not recorded as identified at the time of his concentration in 1921, thus his name was inscribed as one of those missing on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial (Attachment #3).
3. The war diary of the P.P.C.L.I. for May 8, 1915 is clear that there was extensive action by the unit in this immediate sector on that date (Attachment #4). That is reflected in the historical accounts of the P.P.C.L.I., such as those written by Stephen K. Newman ([*With The Patricia's in Flanders 1914-1918*](#)).
4. The location of the P.P.C.L.I. on May 8, 1915 encompasses the area where the remains of both Company Sergeant Major Dames and Sergeant Hawke were located. This is in the sector northeast area of Bellewaerde Lake, approximately 4 km east of Ypres (Iper), Belgium (Attachment #5). This area where the intense battle took place on May 5, 1918 is known as Bellewaerde Ridge where the remains were found at Sheet 28 J7 a.6.4 (Attachment #6).
5. It was deemed possible that there might be more than one member of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry that had a name that was similar, in that the initials may also have been "H. H.". A review of the records held by the CWGC revealed that there was also a Private of the P.P.C.L.I. by the name of Hubert Bernard Hobson #15265. We do not dispute the fact that his remains were also found in the same location as those of Sergeant Hawke and Company Sergeant Major Dames (Attachment #7). We doubt however that there would be confusion between was interpreted as "HARE" and that of "HOBSON", whereas the variation from "HARE" to "HAWKE" is quite reasonable. If the effects (EFX #17335) have remained in the custody of the CWGC then these should be re-examined.
6. We have provided a copy of the "Graves Registration Report Form" for Plot 3 Row H at the Hagle Dump Cemetery. This documents shows the listing as "P.P.C.L.I. HARE H.", which was later crossed out (Attachment #8). We presume the name was crossed out when it was discovered there was no "H. Hare" serving in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, nor in any other unit. Interestingly there are 26 commonwealth soldiers men with the name "H. Hare"

that paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Great War. Eighteen (18) of these served in the UK forces, three (3) with the Australian, three (3) from New Zealand one (1) from South Africa and one (1) with the Newfoundland Regiment. There were NO men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force with the name "H. HARE".

7. The "Concentration of Graves (Exhumations and Reburials) Burial Return" for the remains moved to Plot 3 Row H Grave 11 at Hagle Dump Cemetery provides the details on the exhumation at Sheet 28 J7 a.6.4 (Attachment #9). We acknowledge it varies slightly (yards) from the approximate burial location at Sheet 28 J7 A.4.2 as noted in the Circumstance of Death Card, however it is identical in location for that of CSM Dames in 3.H.12 and it is known that burial and exhumation map coordinates are not an exact science. On that basis we can state that Sergeant H. Hawke was in the exact location where the remains were discovered, exhumed and reburied in the Hagle Dump Cemetery.

Action Required:

The "Investigative Report" has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #10).

It is our contention that there is sufficient evidence in this case that the remains in Hagle Dump Cemetery Plot 3 Row H Grave 11 are those of Sergeant Herbert Edward Hawke #222 of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. The degree of proof of the remains is equal to or greater than that used in the case of CSM Dames, as it was confirmed the remains were Canadian and were from a soldier of the P.P.C.L.I. That was not the case with CSM Dames, whose identity was proposed in the 1990's.

ATTACHMENT #1

1. NO. 222	2. RANK OR RATING Private	3. SURNAME HAWKE	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES Herbert Edward
5. UNIT OR SHIP Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry	6. DATE OF CASUALTY 8-5-15	7. H.Q. FILE NO. 649-H-357	8. RELIGION Church of England
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY "Killed in Action"		10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	
11. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY AT BELLEWAARDE LAKE.			
NOTE:--Items 11, 12 and 14 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.			
13. CEMETERY	14. LOCATION OF CEMETERY	15. GRAVE LOCATION Grave Plot Row	16. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE
17. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN	18. EXPOSURE NO.	19. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO	
20. REMARKS			

20. REPORTED LOCATION OF GRAVE.

Sheet 28.3.7.n.4.2.

21. REMARKS

ATTACHMENT #2

1. NO.	2. RANK OR RATING	3. SURNAME	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES
1315	Company Sergeant Major	DAMES	James
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. I.D. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry	8-5-15	649-D-209	Church of England
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY		10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	
"Killed in Action" Was standing in a fire trench held by his Battalion at Bellewaarde Lake near Ypres on the morning of May 8th 1915, when he was hit by a fragment of enemy shrapnel and instantly killed.			
11. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY			
NOTE:—Boxes 12, 13 and 14 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.			
12. CEMETERY	13. LOCATION OF CEMETERY	14. GRAVE LOCATION	15. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE
		Grave _____	
		Plot _____	
		Row _____	
16. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN	17. EXPOSURE NO.	18. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO	
19. FURTHER PARTICULARS ON REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET.			

20. REPORTED LOCATIONS OF GRAVE.

Sheet 28.J.7.a.4.2.

21. REMARKS.

ATTACHMENT #3

E-103

10308

NUMBER 222. RANK Pte. NAME HAWKE, H. E.

UNIT P.P.C.I.I. NEXT-OF-KIN: Mr. Moffatt,

FILE NO. R.L. 25-H-110 87, Woburn Avenue,

D.G.R. & E. Ref. N. Toronto. 20507

DATE OF DEATH	CAUSE AND PLACE OF DEATH	CAS. SHEET NO.
8.5.15.	Killed in action at Bellemeade Lake.	87.

DATE OF BURIAL	PLACE OF BURIAL	DESCRIPTION OF GRAVE
X	J. 7. A. 4. 2	No cross erected.
	Reference Map. 28	
	Series 6	
	The section in enemy's possession (R.L. 26-7a.)	

MENING GATE MEMORIAL

ATTACHMENT #4

The war diary for that day is on many pages: (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

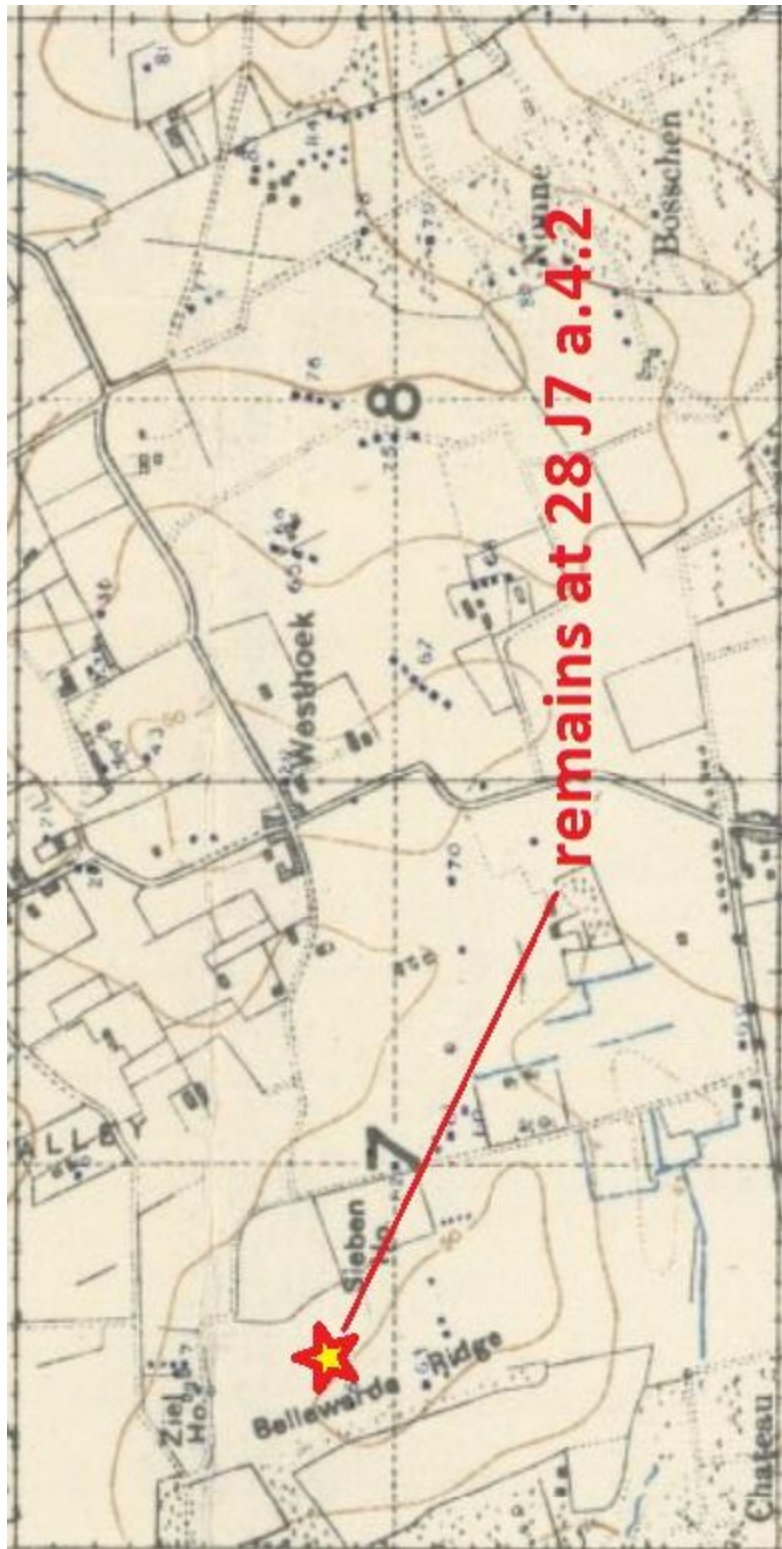
WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. (Erase heading not required.)		Army Form C. 2118.
1915	Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information
MAY 8 th	4 P.M.	Made tour of support trenches & found we were out of touch with Right. On our left a gap of fifty yards was unoccupied. I placed 2 men in this gap to inform me of happenings there. Shortly afterward I was informed that Monmouth Right on left of K.O.Y.L.I. had withdrawn to trenches 300 yards in rear and about 5:30 was informed that K.O.Y.L.I. had also withdrawn to same line of trenches. Another attempt by Germans to advance was stopped by our rifle fire although some reached our trench on right that could not be observed from our support trench but I believe at this time there were more than 100 men alive at this point. 11:30 A.M. We were relieved by 3rd K.P.R.C. who gave us assistance to bury our dead that were in support & communicating trenches as it was impossible for us to attempt to reach the fire trenches. Casualties were as follows: Killed: 1st Lt. Edwards died of wounds, 1st Lt. Crawford, missing, 1st Lt. Dennis & 1st Lt. Lane. Wounded: 1st Lt. Gault, Capt. Adams, Capt. Kiel, 1st Lt. De Roy.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. (Eraser heading not required.)		Army Form C. 2118.
1915	Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information
MAY 8		1st Lt. Martin, 1st Lt. Briggs. Other ranks 93 Killed, 79 missing, 203 wounded.
MAY 9 th		Rtr. had orders to withdraw to G.H.Q. Trenches S of Railway & was started at 2:30 A.M. 1st Lt. Nunn, 1st Lt. Papineau, 1st Lt. Clark, 1st Lt. Vanden Berg. On arrival at G.H.Q. line we were ordered to proceed to L.H.E. GATE - YPRES and occupy ground at Roubaix there. During the day we were killed and lost 5 Killed & 3 wounded.
"	10 th	YPRES all day, in evening furnished a carrying party for S.A. 1st Lt. 50 men & one Officer & delivered 25 Boxes S.A. to trenches at BELLEVILLE LAKE. Casualties: 1 Killed 2 wounded furnished a digging party of 100 men under 1st Lt. Clark who constructed part of support trench S of G.H.Q. line.
"	11 th	YPRES all day. 1st Lt. Nunn's orders to proceed to BUSSEBOOM and marched at 2:30 A.M. and camped in field near Divisional H.Q. about 7 A.M. Casualties: 1 man wounded in YPRES on 11th.
"	12 th	In bivouac at BUSSEBOOM till noon when we formed composite Battalion with 4th K.P.R.C. & marched to HOOGE-CHATEAU and relieved 4th Rtr. in trenches there. Relief completed at 11:45 P.M.

ATTACHMENT #5



ATTACHMENT #6



ATTACHMENT #7

Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name	Docs.
HAWKE, HERBERT EDWARD	Sergeant	222	08/05/1915	36	Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment)	Canadian	Panel 10.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	
HODSON, HUBERT BERNARD	Private	15265	08/05/1915	22	Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment)	Canadian	Panel 10.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	

1. NO.		2. RANK OR RATING		3. SURNAME		4. CHRISTIAN NAMES	
15866,		Private,		HODSON,		Hubert Bernard,	
5. UNIT OR SHIP		6. DATE OF CASUALTY		7. H.Q. FILE NO.		8. RELIGION	
Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry,		6-5-15.		649-II-651.		Church of England.	
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY				10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN			
"Killed in Action."							
11. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY							
TRENCHES AT BELLEWAARDE LAKE.							
NOTE:--Items 11, 12 and 13 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.							
12. CEMETERY		13. LOCATION OF CEMETERY		14. GRAVE LOCATION		15. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE	
				Grave: _____ Plot: _____ Row: _____			
16. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN		17. EXPOSURE NO.		18. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO			
19. FURTHER PARTICULARS ON REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET.							

20. REPORTED LOCATION OF GRAVE. Sheet 26.7.8.4.2.

21. REMARKS.

ATTACHMENT #8

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT
GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

Army Form W. 3372.

Commune : ELVERDINGHE REPORT No. 25 SCHEDULE No. 25c. 24.c.

PLACE OF BURIAL HAGLE DUMP CEMETERY

Map Reference Sheet:- 28.G.6.a.3.7.

The following are buried here:- PLOT. 3. ROW 'H'

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
		U.B. SOLDIER			E	1C2
Royal Warwicks		U.B. SOLDIER			E	2C2
		U.B. SOLDIER			E	3C2
Royal Berks Regt.?	3413 or 743	STOCK U.B.S	David GRUN		E	4C2
R. Berks Regt.		U.B. SOLDIER			E	5C2
-do-		U.B. SOLDIER			E	6C2
	3326	U.B. SOLDIER			E	7C2
Royal Berks Regt.		U.B. SOLDIER			E	8C2
-do-		U.B. SOLDIER			E	9C2
		U.B. SOLDIER	H.C.		E	10C2
P.P.C.L.I.		HARD U. Can. soldier			E	11C2
PPCLI	1315	U. CANADIAN U.B. SOLDIER (CANADIAN ?)		20/08/79	E	12C2
		Dames, CSM Jw		8.5.15	E	13C2
K.R.R.C.		U.B. L/CORPORAL			E	14C2
9/ K.R.R.C.	A/1845	SOUTHERN	Rfn. J.	22.10.17	E	14C2
9/ K.R.R.C.	R/33758	BRETT	Rfn. C.T.	22.10.17	E	15C2

ENTERED 2/10/25
21/9/25

(6 31 5) W3160-P2723 100,000 9/19 HWV(P1024) Form W.3372

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ELVERDINGHE 25-23F 6/2584

ALL CROSSES ERECTED. CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (Exhumation and Reburials).

16.1.25. 1/58/21.E.

Name of Cemetery of Reburial HAGLE DUMP CEMETERY. 28.0.6.a.3.7.

Plot	Row	Grave	Map Reference where body found	Was cross on grave?	Regimental particulars	Means of Identification	Were any effects forwarded to Base?
7 3	6 H	10.	28.D.13.e.5.5.	✓	H.Q., UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.	Medal.	Medal engraved "H.C." 17336
7 4	6 "	11.	28.J.7.a.6.4.	✓	H.HARRIS, U.C. Cam. S. P.P.O.L.I.	Cap Badge. Razor.	Razor. 17335
7 5	6 "	12.	-do-		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER. General 1. Dames P.P.C.I. 8.5.15.	D.O.M. & King & Queens S.A. & D.C.M. Medal Ribands.	17336
7 6	5 H	1.	28.I.24.b.05.70.	✓	H.C., UNKNOWN BRITISH BOMBARDIER. R.F.A.	Badge of rank. Numerals. Gold Signet ring engraved "H.C.".	Gold Signet Ring engraved "H.C." 17339
7 7	5 "	2.	-do-		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER. R.F.A.	Numerals. Clothing.	No. FF.
7 8	5 "	3.	28.I.24.b.1.1.	✓	UNKNOWN CANADIAN SERGEANT.	Numerals. Clothing.	No. FF.
7 9	5 "	4.	28.N.36.e.01.20.	✓	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.	Clothing.	No. FF.

CL. 11.11.11. REPORT

Richard Stiles, Registration Officer, No.1 Area. I.W.G.C.

ENTERED 26.1.25. 2.2.1.25.

This form to be made out in triplicate, two copies being handed to the D.A.D. (C. of G.) and the other retained by the Burial Officer.

ATTACHMENT #10

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

Procedure:	Guideline Criteria for Submission:
All new identification cases need to be assessed in the first instance by the Canadian Agency (CA) and submissions should go to their office directly. After an initial assessment, if the Agency feels that the case is compelling, they will then pass all the documentation to the Commemorations Team at the Commission's Head Office. Head Office will then review the case and inform the CA of their findings. The Canadian authorities will then decide whether or not any changes to the arrangements for commemoration are required and inform the Commission accordingly.	Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

Name	Affiliation	E-mail	Contribution
Richard Laughton	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	rlaughton@laughton.ca	Report Author